

September 10, 2003

SDMS Document ID



2030889

Mr Vodehnal;

I have sent you several letters detailing my concerns with the way EPA is handling the Libby Export Plant cleanup. Twice you have given this site a clean bill of health when it can be easily shown to be dirty and a threat to the health of Libby residents. I have given you ample evidence that the corruption in City Hall is to blame for EPA's failures. It seems reasonable to me to limit the involvement of the offending parties before irreparable damage occurs.

I have commented on the work plan submitted for the "Boat Ramp". There are some fundamental flaws in the approach and I see them as flaws that protect City Hall from taking responsibilities for their actions. I think most of my procedural concerns are addressed in those comments. Now I want to protest the manner in which the work plan was presented to the people of Libby, or rather, hidden from the people of Libby.

I stated in a letter to you on July 10 that you must open your dealings with the City to public scrutiny and asked that the work plan be presented to the City Council in a public meeting. On August 19 I sent another letter detailing my concerns with the corruption at City Hall. I asked for transparency in your dealings with City Hall. I stood up in a CAG meeting and asked for transparency. Jim Christianson told me he couldn't discuss some of the elements of the work because of the OIG investigation. I did everything in my power to hold you accountable to your own public involvement standards. You have failed again.

Monday, September 8, 2003, the work plan was finally submitted to the City Council. This meeting was properly advertised in the local newspaper a week or so before the meeting. That ad stated that the meeting was to begin at 6:00pm. On Friday, September 5, after 3:00pm the agenda was modified to add EPA's work plan and the time was changed to 5:30pm. This notice was posted at City Hall behind a locked door over the weekend. I arrived at the meeting in time to see Jim Christianson walking out.

This type of dishonest and unethical behavior does not inspire confidence that EPA is working for the people of Libby. This looks like a coverup. You will see in my comments that the work plan is fundamentally flawed. It fails to address the area where the City purposely covered the contamination left behind after TWO EPA cleanups. This site is now Operable Unit #1 AND #4. The Mayor of Libby is still the primary contact and already materials are being bought from his renter. The same renter Grace paid \$1,000,000 to put in business with the Mayor. The Mayor should not profit from exposing his constituents to a deadly substance.

Please tell me this is not how this project is going to proceed. I have tried every method possible, short of a mass demonstration at the worksite, to provide input in this situation that will protect the People of Libby. Why isn't this a concern that we share?

Sincerely, DC Orr

Sept. 10.

Called Mr. Orr and left him a message that I was understanding that his comments had been taken into consideration. It was unfortunate that the meeting time had been changed and that if he had evidence of "corruption" he should contact the Inspector General's Office.

Dale Vodehnal